

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1           1. A method for coordinating charging information in a communications network,  
2     the method comprising:  
3           establishing a communication connection;  
4           generating a globally unique charging identification in a first network element and  
5     associating said globally unique charging identification with said communication  
6     connection; and  
7           sending said globally unique charging identification from said first network  
8     element to a second network element.  
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2. The method of claim 1, wherein said second network element uses said  
globally unique charging identification to collect charging information.
- 1           3. The method of claim 1, wherein said globally unique charging identification  
2     includes the address of the first network element.

1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said communication channel is a Packet Data  
2 Protocol (PDP) context.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said globally unique charging identification is  
2 generated by a GGSN.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element is a Mobile Station  
2 (MS).

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element is a Serving GPRS  
2 Support Node (SGSN).

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said first network element is a Gateway  
2 GPRS Support Node (GGSN).

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said second network element is a Call State  
2 Control Function (CSCF).

1           10. The method of claim 1, wherein said second network element sends said  
2           globally unique charging identification towards an endpoint of a communication..  
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11. The method of claim 10, wherein said second network element sends said  
globally unique charging identification to a second network.

1           12. The method of claim 10, wherein said second network collects charging data  
2           using said globally unique charging identification and prepares billing using the collected  
3           charging data.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein said second network collects charging data  
from a plurality of call detail records associated with said globally unique  
charging identification.

1           14. A method for coordinating information between a transport layer and an  
2           application layer in a communications network, the method comprising:  
3           initiating a transaction in a first network element in an application layer;  
4           assigning a tuple for each communication connection within said transaction;  
5           initiating a communication connection in said first network element in said application  
6           layer; and  
7           associating said communication connection with said transaction using said tuple or  
8           tuple pair.

1 15. The method of claim 14, wherein said tuple or tuple pair is forwarded to a  
2 second network element in said application layer.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein said tuple or tuple pair is forwarded to a third  
2 network element and a fourth network element in a transport layer.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein charging information generated by said fourth  
2 network element and said third network element in said transport layer and by the second  
3 network element in said application layer is associated with said tuple or tuple pair.

1 18. The method of claim 14, wherein said tuple includes a destination IP address  
2 and port information of a transaction specific media connection.

1 19. The method of claim 15, wherein said second network element is a CSCF.

1 20. The method of claim 16, wherein said third network element is a SGSN and  
2 said fourth network element is a GGSN.

1 21. The method of claim 17, wherein said charging information is a CDR.

1 22. The method of claim 14, wherein said communication connection is a Packet  
Data Protocol (PDP) context.

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23. The method of claim 14, wherein said transaction is a call.

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24. A system for coordinating information between an application layer and a  
transport layer, the system comprising:

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means for initiating a transaction in a first network element in an application layer;

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means for assigning a tuple or tuple pair to said transaction;

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means for initiating a communication connection in said first network element in said

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application layer; and

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means for associating said communication connection with said transaction using

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said tuple or tuple pair.

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